

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071977

ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/HR:HKHILL:DI

APPROVED BY D/HA - MR. CHESLAW

H - MR. STAHNKE (PROCEDURAL)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: DRAFT STATEMENT FOR MS. DERIAN'S CONGRESSIONAL
APPEARANCE

FOR DERIAN FROM CHESLAW

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNCLEARED DRAFT STATEMENT FOR YOUR
APPEARANCE APRIL 5 BEFORE THE LONG HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE. WE HAVE THE STATEMENT OUT FOR CLEARANCE
NOW, BUT SINCE H NEEDS TO HAVE AN APPROVED TEXT BY
MONDAY AFTERNOON TO PROVIDE TO THE COMMITTEE, IT WAS
ESSENTIAL THAT WE TRANSMIT THIS FOR YOUR COMMENTS NOW.
PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR COMMENTS BY RETURN IMMEDIATE
CABLE. (FYI: IN DRAFTING THIS, WE WERE GUIDED BY H'S
ADVICE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE
USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS IT EFFECTS ECONOMIC AND
SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND, IN PARTICULAR, SECTION 502B
OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. END FYI)

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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PAGE 02 STATE 071977

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO

COME TODAY TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS ON
WHAT WE ARE DOING AND HOPE TO DO IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
FIELD. THE ADMINISTRATION'S FORTHRIGHT STAND ON THIS
ISSUE HAS BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF ATTENTION IN THE

PRESS, AMONG THE PUBLIC, AND ABROAD. AS A RESULT, WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY TRYING TO SHAPE POSTURE AND POLICY WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RESPOND TO THE INCREASING INTEREST IN WHAT WE ARE DOING.

I UNDERSTAND THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN WHAT STEPS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. IN ADDITION TO ADDRESSING THIS SUBJECT, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION SOME OF OUR OTHER RECENT ACTIVITY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

THE FIRST STEPS TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 502B WERE TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 94-329 ON JUNE 30. THESE STEPS HAVE BEEN CONTINUED INTO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND FORM AN ESSENTIAL AND PROMINENT PART OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS.

SOON AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE LAW, THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED ALL U.S. DIPLOMATIC POSTS OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 502B, AND INSTRUCTED POSTS IN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE U.S. HAS SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO INFORM THE HOST GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE LAW.

STEPS BEGAN TO BE TAKEN IN THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE BEING FORMULATED AND IMPLEMENTED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD "PROMOTE AND ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVOID IDENTIFICATION OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH SUCH PROGRAMS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 071977

GOVERNMENTS WHICH DENY TO THEIR PEOPLE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS." THE NEWLY IDENTIFIED DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COMMENCED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMULATION OF THE FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THESE FY 78 PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND IN SEVERAL CASES THE HUMAN RIGHTS FACTOR RESULTED IN DECISIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO EFFECT REDUCTIONS IN THE AMOUNTS OF OUR ASSISTANCE. OUR OFFICE CONTINUES SELECTIVELY TO REVIEW EXPORT LICENSES, FMS TRANSACTIONS AND SIMILAR PROPOSALS.

INVOKING SUBSECTION (C) OF 502B, CALLING FOR AD HOC REPORTS, CONGRESS LAST FALL REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE HUMAN RIGHTS "STATEMENTS" ON A TOTAL OF SIX COUNTRIES. THESE WERE SUBMITTED AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S

APPROVAL MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON DECEMBER 31, 1976.

MORE RECENTLY WE FORMALLY SUBMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON 82 COUNTRIES TO CONGRESS WITH THE PRESENTATION DOCUMENT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF SECTION 502B, CALLING FOR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS. WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL THESE REPORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE REPORTS HAVE RANGED FROM PRAISE OF THE EFFORT TO QUESTIONING THE IDEA THAT SUCH REPORTING WAS APPROPRIATE AT ALL, AND I AM SURE WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST WORD ON THIS SUBJECT. A REASONED JUDGMENT WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME.

IT IS ALSO TOO EARLY TO ASSESS WHAT THE LONG RANGE EFFECT OF THE REPORTS WILL BE ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 071977

AND ON THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT IN PREPARING AND SUBMITTING THEM TO CONGRESS WE HAVE BROKEN NEW GROUND AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED IN THE PROCESS WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE FUTURE.

WE HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONTINUING STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONGRESS. THE SECRETARY, DEPUTY SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE FREQUENTLY TESTIFIED ON THIS SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED, IN THE SHORT TIME I HAVE BEEN THE ACTING COORDINATOR I HAVE ON THE AVERAGE APPEARED BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN NEW LEGISLATION. RECENT HEARINGS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE EXIM BANK INITIATED CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO BRANCHES ON PROPOSED HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION. WE HAVE WELCOMED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WE HOPE A PRECEDENT FOR AN ONGOING COLLABORATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES MAINTAIN AN OPEN DIALOGUE AND ACTIVE COOPERATION IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD.

I AM ALSO MEETING WITH AS MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS TIME PERMITS AS PART OF MY EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE FULLEST APPRECIATION OF THE COMPLEXITY OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES; AND IN FURTHER

PURSUIT OF THAT GOAL I HAVE JUST COMPLETED A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO ARGENTINA. OUR AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES URGED ME TO COME AND HEAR FIRST HAND FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, THOSE ACTIVE IN REFUGEE WORK AND OTHER ARGENTINIAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 071977

TINIAN, ABOUT A SITUATION WHICH HAS DEEPLY CONCERNED MANY OF US IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WAS INTENDED ONLY TO BE A FAMILIARIZATION VISIT, WITH NO DIPLOMATIC RESPONSIBILITIES, AND IT IS MUCH TOO SOON FOR ME TO HAVE FORMULATED ANY HARD JUDGMENTS FROM THE MANY IMPRESSIONS I HAVE CARRIED BACK. MY PRINCIPAL COMMENT AT THIS POINT IS THAT I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO AMBASSADOR HILL AND HIS OUTSTANDING EMBASSY STAFF FOR THEIR SUPERB ASSISTANCE DURING MY VISIT.

ON THE HOME FRONT, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS IN AUGMENTING OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. WE STILL NEED A MORE ADEQUATE STAFF IF WE ARE TO GET A BETTER GRIP ON THE FAST EXPANDING TASKS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

WE ARE ALSO OUTLINING THE STEPS NECESSARY TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY. WE INTEND TO ORGANIZE MORE EFFECTIVE REVIEWS OF ACTION PROPOSALS WHICH WILL IN TURN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A CLEARER IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE. OUR AIM IS TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM OF THE FIRST TEN WEEKS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS DEEP AND LONG-TERM; WITH PERSEVERANCE AND PATIENCE WE WILL WORK TO TRANSLATE A COMMITMENT INTO RESULTS AND REALITY.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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